

Appl. No. 10/624,017
Atty. Docket No. P-124C2
Amdt. Dated October 8, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 27, 2004
Customer No. 27752

REMARKS

Upon entry of the claim cancellations and additions herein, Claims 23 – 36 will be pending in the present application.

Pursuant to a Preliminary Amendment filed by Applicants concurrently with the filing of this continuing application, Claims 1 – 22 had been previously canceled and replaced with new Claims 23 – 36. However, upon receipt of the Office Action detailing the Restriction Requirement of the Examiner (dated September 27, 2004) and upon a voice mail exchange with the Examiner, it is believed that this Preliminary Amendment was not appropriately entered by the United States Patent and Trademark Office through no error of Applicants.

The previously filed Preliminary Amendment is attached hereto for reference. However, the substance of the Preliminary Amendment is set forth herein in the form of an *Amendment to the Specification* as well as *Amendments to the Claims*. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter these amendments. Upon entry of the *Amendments to the Claims*, all pending claims herein will be directed to processes for controlling fecal hair excretion and trichobezoar formation in an animal. As such, although the Restriction Requirement will be moot, the claims upon entry will be directed solely to "Group II" as classified by the Examiner.

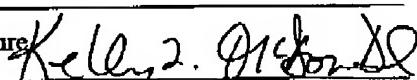
Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the Restriction Requirement in view of the claim amendments previously set forth in Applicants' Preliminary Amendment, as re-presented herein, and proceed to examination of the present application on the merits. If the Examiner believes that personal contact would be beneficial for disposition of the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY

By _____

Signature



Kelly L. McDow-Dunham
Registration No. 43,787
(513) 622-0159

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